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ABSTRACT

This fact sheet describes a six-week, tuition-free workshop program, Citybridge in Concord, Massachusetts, in education where motivated middle school students work with talented high school and college students who are interested in teaching. The inservice curriculum is designed to prepare urban youth for the challenging high school curriculum and stresses academic excellence, leadership, creativity, and diversity. The fact sheet lists the program's objectives, describes the types of students and teachers involved, and briefly highlights the program's structure, curriculum, follow-up procedure, and expected results. (GLR)

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Citybridge Fact Sheet

by

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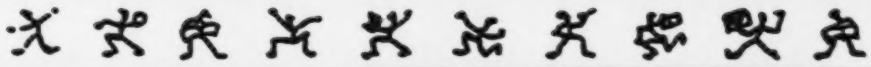

Fact Sheet

Citybridge, a tuition-free program, is a unique workshop in education where motivated middle school students work with talented high school and college students interested in teaching. The intensive curriculum stresses academic excellence, leadership, creativity and diversity. The Citybridge program takes place at Concord Academy in Concord, Massachusetts, and consists of a rigorous six-week summer residential program and a year-round Saturday program of tutoring and educational advocacy. Designed to prepare urban youth for challenging high school curriculums, Citybridge is a collaborative effort by the Summerbridge National Project, Concord Academy, and New England public and independent schools.

Objectives

- Prepare seventh and eighth grade students for success at strong academic high schools.
- Encourage and prepare outstanding college and high school students to enter the field of education.
- Promote the development of students' academic and leadership skills and inspire a love of learning.

Students

- The first class of Citybridge students consists of 25 seventh graders recruited from public middle schools.
- The second-year program will consist of 25 returning eighth graders and a new class of 30 seventh graders.
- Each student commits to two summer sessions and the Saturday school year workshops.
- Citybridge students come from diverse ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds reflecting the demographics of the communities in which they live.

Teachers

- Teachers are recruited from local high schools and colleges nationally.
- Responsibilities include curriculum development, preparation and teaching of academic courses and electives, academic advising, dorm supervision and special activities.
- The faculty reflects the diversity of the student body.
- Teachers at Citybridge go through intensive teacher training lead by experienced professionals who are hired as Mentor Teachers. Mentor Teachers work with Citybridge teachers throughout the summer, providing them with feedback, guidance and resources.

The Program

- Citybridge is a six-week summer program beginning at the end of June.
- The program follows a four-day boarding schedule. Students will return home on weekends and return to school on Monday morning.
- Bus transportation will be provided for all.

The Curriculum

- Students take four academic classes in the morning (literature, writing, study skills, math, science, foreign language, computers, history) and choose two afternoon electives (arts, athletics, dance, drama).
- All students complete two hours of homework each night to reinforce and promote the mastery of newly acquired skills.
- Every Wednesday during the summer session students will participate in an experiential learning program.
- The student-teacher ratio is two to one.
- The average class size is three to six students per class.

Follow-up

- Students take part in the Saturday program during the academic year to reinforce the skills learned over the intensive summer program. The Saturday program will provide students with extensive tutoring, secondary school counseling and community service activities.

Results

- Citybridge expects to produce similar results to those of the Summerbridge program at San Francisco University High School after which Citybridge is modeled.

In San Francisco:

> 92% of Summerbridge graduates attended strong academic high schools.

> 64% of all college students who teach in the program enter the field of education after graduating.

More Information

For more information about Citybridge including information on student applications and employment opportunities, please contact the directors, Adam Tucker or Sarah Sze, at:

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